

A History of the Juniata Valley and its People Under The Editorial Supervision of John W. Jordan, LL.D.; Librarian of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Illustrated; New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company; 1913; Volume II

NORTH

The genealogy of the **North** family of the Juniata Valley is traced in this country to **Roger (2) North**, born in Ireland, a son of **Caleb North**, lord lieutenant of Ireland, married **Jane Eckerly**, and grandson of **Roger (1) North**, of New Castle, West Heath, Ireland.

(III) **Roger (2) North** was born in Ireland; married **Ann Rambo** and, prior to the year 1753, was a resident of the city of Philadelphia. He had a son **Caleb (2)**.

(IV) **Colonel Caleb (2) North**, son of **Roger (2)** and **Ann (Rambo) North**, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1753, died in Coventry, Pennsylvania, in 1840. He was a brave officer of the revolution. He was with Washington at the "crossing of the Delaware"; fought throughout the war, rising to the rank of colonel in the Pennsylvania line. He was president of the Society of the Cincinnati, and in 1819 sheriff of Philadelphia County. He married **Lydia North** and left issue.

(V) **William**, son of **Colonel Caleb (2) North**, was born in Philadelphia. He married and had issue: **James**, of whom further: **Caleb**, a tanner of Millerstown, Perry County, Pennsylvania; **Joshua**, a soldier of the war of 1812, and a tanner of Millerstown; **Rebecca**, married **Dr. Ezra Doty**, of Juniata County.

(VI) **James**, son of **William North**, with his brothers, **Caleb** and **Joshua**, established a tannery at Millerstown, Perry County, Pennsylvania, continuing there until about the year 1800, when **James** withdrew and located at Thompsontown, in Juniata (then Cumberland) County, Pennsylvania. He there established a tannery which he operated for many years. He was a justice of the peace, then an office of great importance (practically a judgeship), served for many years, and was prominent in local affairs, being a man of intelligence above the average. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and a man of strictly religious life. He died in February, 1828.

He married **Rachel**, daughter of **Francis Jordan**, of Millerstown, who died in 1872. Children: **Thomas**, died at Richfield, Juniata County, a tannery owner; **Lewis**, died in Hamilton County, Ohio, a carpenter and undertaker; **Caleb**, died at Atchison, Kansas, moving west at an early day, a school teacher; **Sarah**, married a **Mr. Postlethwaite**, of Mifflin County; **Euphenia**, married **Philip Strouse**, of Mexico, Juniata County; **Hannah W.**; **James (2)**, of whom further; **Amos J.**, died at Atchison, Kansas, a miller; **Rebecca**, married **Colonel John Bryner**, of Peoria, Illinois; **Eliza B.**, married **David Witherow**, also of Peoria.

(VII) **James (2)**, son of **James (1)** and **Rachel (Jordan) North**, was born at Thompsontown, Juniata County, Pennsylvania, November 6, 1819. He was educated in subscription schools, earning the money himself to pay for his tuition. He was employed by **Robert Thompson** at light work on the farm and so well was **Mr. Thompson** pleased with his work as a boy that he

gave him work on his canal boats, paying him five dollars monthly. As boy and young man he was frugal and ere long was himself owner and captain of a boat, plying the waters of the canal. In January, 1836, the **Thompsons** placed him in charge of a branch store at Newton Hamilton, where he worked for his board and clothing, but gaining a valuable business experience; then for a few years received a salary of one hundred dollars yearly, finally was admitted as a partner. He continued in business until 1844, when his partner died and the business was closed up. **Mr. North** then moved to a tract of one hundred and twenty acres of wild land in Juniata County, the patrimony of his wife. This he partly cleared and worked until 1847, when he entered the employ of the Pennsylvania railroad, connected with the engineering corps. When the road was opened he was appointed agent at Millerstown, remaining one year. He was then transferred to Mifflin Station (Patterson), where he was freight and ticket agent, also agent for the Adams Express Company. When the telegraph line was extended west of Harrisburg, he was the assistant of **H. Jones Brooks** and was the first telegraph operator on the line. During the early existence of the railroad, in order to win business, he established a store and purchased all products of the region brought to him, including poles, grain, etc., dealing also in coal and lumber. He was the instructor in telegraphy of many young men, some of whom later became well known and prominent operators. Among his pupils were: **David Strouse**, who became superintendent of the military telegraph lines of the United States government under Colonel Thomas A. Scott, and **D. Homer Bates**, later vice-president of the Tradesman's National Bank of New York. **Mr. North** remained in the employ of the Pennsylvania railroad thirty-five years, then resigned and was succeeded by his son, **Washington S.** He was a prominent factor in the development of the region that was opened up by the coming of the railroad. He was one of the founders of the town of Patterson and its first burgess, served on the borough school board, and when the post office was established in 1853 was appointed postmaster, holding until 1861. Until the year 1860, **Mr. North** was an active Whig, but with the passing of that party he became a Democrat and ever afterward supported that party. In 1884 he was elected a member of the lower house of the state legislature, and later was a clerk in the office of the secretary of the commonwealth, resigning in 1895. He was also one of the early bank organizers of the Juniata Valley, assisting in 1852 in organizing the Lewistown Bank as a state bank, also serving as director. He was associated with **R. M. Spear** in the Union Bank of Huntingdon; was for a time president of the Juniata Valley Bank of Mifflintown, and an organizer, also director, of the Farmer's Bank of Harrisburg. He was also a large owner of real estate, his holdings at one time totaling sixteen hundred acres. He was a member and trustee of the Presbyterian Church for many years, and at one time was active in the Masonic order. He died in 1898, aged seventy nine years. He was a strong character and an important factor in the development and progress of the Juniata Valley.

He married, November 12, 1840, **Susanna Matilda Strouse**, who died in 1896, daughter of **David Strouse**. Children: **Caleb C.**, cashier of the Columbia National Bank of Washington, D. C.; **Washington S.**, of whom further; **Rebecca**, married **P. W. Crider**, of the firm of **Crider & Jackson**, bankers and merchants of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania; **Herman H.**, attorney-at-law and ex-member of the legislature, of Bradford, Pennsylvania; **Mary M.**, married **George Jacobs**, whom she survives, a resident of Philadelphia.

(VIII) **Washington Strouse**, second son of **James (2)** and **Susanna Matilda (Strouse) North**, was born in Turbett Township, Juniata County, October 29, 1847. He was educated in the public

schools, Port Royal Academy and Eastman's Business College, a graduate of the latter in 1865. During his school years he was his father's assistant in the warehouse at Patterson, and after graduation returned, and until 1884 was so employed. In the latter year he succeeded his father as station agent at Patterson, for the Pennsylvania railroad, continuing until the year 1900—a period of service as boy and man, with the railroad, covering thirty-six years, thirty of which he was his father's assistant, but virtually carrying for many of these years the full burden of responsibility of the agency. He had kept the coal and lumber business, begun in early years by **James North**, in operation and so largely had the business increased that in 1900 he was compelled to resign his railroad position. He has since devoted himself exclusively to this and his other private affairs. His coal and lumber business is a retail one, well established and prosperous. He is president of the Juniata Company, a corporation formed to furnish light and power (electric) to the towns of Mifflin and Mifflintown. He also has a farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres, which he operates, a part of the estate of his father, who prior to his death had disposed of all of his sixteen hundred acres, except two farms. **Mr. North** is a Democrat in politics and has held every borough office except that of poor director. In 1893 he was elected treasurer of Juniata County, serving three years. In religious faith he is a Presbyterian, as is his wife.

He married, January 19, 1869, **Olivia Jacobs**, born in Juniata County, died December 24, 1907, daughter of **George** and **Sarah (Christy) Jacobs**, both of old Juniata Valley families. Children: 1. **James Cloyd**, now his father's assistant in business; he married **Elizabeth C. Grubb** and has **Olivia, Elizabeth** and **James**. 2. **Nellie Olivia**, married **John J. (2) Patterson**, an attorney-at-law and resides at Mifflintown; children: **John J. (3), Lucretia** and **Olivia**. 3. **Mary Edith**, resides at the family home in Mifflin.

www.theperryhistorians.org